

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 and 27-39 are pending.
Claims 1 and 27 have been amended.
Claims 1 and 27 are independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-13 and 27-39 are patentable over the prior art.

The 35 U.S.C. §102 & §103 Rejections of Claims 1-13 & 27-39

Claims 27-30, 36, and 37 stand rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Bright, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,312,525 (Bright). Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 27, 30, 31, 36, and 37 stand rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bright in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA) of Fig. 1. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 27-31, and 33-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (APA) of Fig. 2 in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA) of Fig. 1, and further in view of Bright. Claims 6 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bright in view of APA of Fig. 1 and further in view of Langlais, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,107,775 (Langlais). Claims 6 and 32 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over APA of Fig. 2 in view of APA of Fig. 1 in view of Bright, and further in view of Langlais. Claims 12 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over APA of Fig. 2 in view of APA of Fig. 1 in view of Bright and further in view of Johnson, U.S. Patent No. 4,480,656 (Johnson). Claims 13 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bright in view of APA of Figs. 1 and 2 and further in view of Way, U.S. Patent No. 2,197,598 (Way). Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Bright. Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bright in view of Langlais. Claim 38 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bright in view of Johnson. Claim 39 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bright in view of Way.

As noted above, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 27. Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 27 so as to more clearly distinguish the present invention, as defined by independent Claims 1 and 27, over the prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to independent Claims 1 and 27 do not contain new matter. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-13 and 27-39 are patentable over the prior art.

I. Claims 1-13 and 27-39 Are Patentable Over The Prior Art

a. Claims 1 and 27 are patentable over Bright in view of the APA of Fig. 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 27 are patentable over Bright, the APA of Fig. 1, and any combination of same. Applicants respectfully submit that Bright, the APA of Fig. 1, and any combination of same, do not disclose or suggest a support apparatus for an installation of semiconductor processing equipment having a bottom outline and a plurality of load-bearing mounting feet disposed along the equipment's bottom outline, the support apparatus comprising a plurality of support legs, and a non-rectangular frame disposed on the plurality of support legs, the frame having a frame outline which is adapted to substantially duplicate the bottom outline of the semiconductor processing equipment, the frame being configured to support the installation of semiconductor processing equipment by aligning with the plurality of load-

bearing mounting feet of the semiconductor processing equipment, and provide one or more facilities connection locations that are adapted to be pre-aligned to one or more facilities connection points of the semiconductor processing equipment and that are positioned outside of a periphery of the non-rectangular frame.

The Examiner asserts that Bright discloses the "outside positioning/location" of the facilities connection locations. The Examiner cites to reference numeral 48 in support of this assertion. However, in FIG. 4 of Bright, the facilities connection locations 48 are positioned above and within the periphery of the frame 26 (FIG. 2) of the Bright support apparatus. Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that, in contrast, Applicants' facilities connection locations are located outside the periphery of Applicants' frame. For example, see reference numeral 150 in Applicants' FIG. 4.

Applicants respectfully submit that Bright, the APA of Fig. 1, and any combination of same, do not disclose or suggest a non-rectangular frame disposed on the plurality of support legs, the frame having a frame outline which is adapted to substantially duplicate the bottom outline of the semiconductor processing equipment, the frame being configured to support the installation of semiconductor processing equipment by aligning with the plurality of load-bearing mounting feet of the semiconductor processing equipment, and provide one or more facilities connection locations that are adapted to be pre-aligned to one or more facilities connection points of the semiconductor processing equipment and that are positioned outside of a periphery of the non-rectangular frame.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 27 are not rendered unpatentable by

Bright, the APA of Fig. 1, and any combination of same. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 27 are patentable over Bright in view of the APA of Fig. 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 1 and 27.

b. Claims 1 and 27 are patentable over the APA of Fig. 2 in view of the APA of Fig. 1, and further in view of Bright.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 27 are patentable over the APA of Fig. 2, the APA of Fig. 1, Bright, and any combination of same. Applicants respectfully submit that the APA of Fig. 2, the APA of Fig. 1, Bright, and any combination of same, do not disclose or suggest a support apparatus for an installation of semiconductor processing equipment having a bottom outline and a plurality of load-bearing mounting feet disposed along the equipment's bottom outline, the support apparatus comprising a plurality of support legs, and a non-rectangular frame disposed on the plurality of support legs, the frame having a frame outline which is adapted to substantially duplicate the bottom outline of the semiconductor processing equipment, the frame being configured to support the installation of semiconductor processing equipment by aligning with the plurality of load-bearing mounting feet of the semiconductor processing equipment, and provide one or more facilities connection locations that are adapted to be pre-aligned to one or more facilities connection points of the semiconductor processing equipment and that are positioned outside of a periphery of the non-rectangular frame.

Applicants respectfully submit that the APA of Fig. 2, the APA of Fig. 1, Bright, and any combination of same, do not disclose or suggest a non-rectangular frame disposed on the plurality of support legs, the frame having a frame

outline which is adapted to substantially duplicate the bottom outline of the semiconductor processing equipment, the frame being configured to support the installation of semiconductor processing equipment by aligning with the plurality of load-bearing mounting feet of the semiconductor processing equipment, and provide one or more facilities connection locations that are adapted to be pre-aligned to one or more facilities connection points of the semiconductor processing equipment and that are positioned outside of a periphery of the non-rectangular frame.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 27 are not rendered unpatentable by the APA of Fig. 2, the APA of Fig. 1, Bright, and any combination of same. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 27 are patentable over the APA of Fig. 2 in view of the APA of Fig. 1, and further in view of Bright.

c. Claims 1-13 and 27-39 are patentable over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 27 are patentable over the prior art. Allowance of Claims 1 and 27 are respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 2-13 and 28-39, which claims depend from either Claim 1 or 27, is also respectfully requested.

II. Claims 27-39 are patentable over the Prior Art.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 27-39 are patentable over the prior art for the following additional reasons. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art does not disclose or suggest a frame adapted to be disposed on a plurality of support legs, the frame having a frame

outline which is adapted to substantially duplicate the bottom outline of semiconductor processing equipment, the frame being configured to provide one or more facilities connection locations that are adapted to be pre-aligned to one or more facilities connection points of the semiconductor processing equipment and that are positioned outside of a periphery of the frame.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 27 is not rendered unpatentable by the prior art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 27 is patentable over the prior art. Allowance of Claim 27 is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 28-39, which claims depend from Claim 27, is also respectfully requested.

III. Claim Amendments

Regardless of the above, and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended both of the independent claims herein to make explicit what was implicit. As amended, Applicants have clarified that the facilities connection points "are positioned outside of a periphery of the non-rectangular frame." This amendment distinguishes Applicants' invention over the teachings of the relied upon references and thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

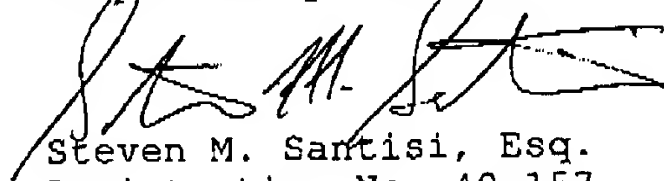
IV. Conclusion

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully solicited.

Allowance of pending Claims 1-13 and 27-39 is respectfully requested.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due with this Amendment. However, in the event that any other fees are due, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696 for any such fees required by this Amendment. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone Applicants' attorney should any questions remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steven M. Santisi, Esq.
Registration No. 40,157
Dugan & Dugan, PC
Attorneys for Applicants
(914) 332-9081

Dated: January 20, 2005
Tarrytown, New York